

symbol generating means for forming the image of a symbol on a target, said symbol generating means including:

reflective means for reflecting said beam of energy to form said image on said target, said reflective means including mirror means for generating a plurality of symbols, and

select means for selecting one of said mirror means, said select means including wheel means for supporting said mirror means, wheel drive means for actuating said wheel means, and control means for selectively activating said wheel drive means to select said symbol for reflecting a selected symbol onto said target; and

focusing mirror means for directing and concentrating said reflected beam of energy onto said target.

12. A high speed system for marking a symbol or group of symbols on a target, said system comprising: laser means for generating a beam of electromagnetic energy;

symbol generating means for forming the image of a symbol on a target, said symbol generating means including:

reflective means for reflecting said beam of energy to form said image on said target, said reflective

means including mirror means for generating a plurality of symbols, and

select means for selecting one of said mirror means, said select means including wheel means for supporting said mirror means, wheel drive means for actuating said wheel means, and control means for selectively activating said laser means for reflecting a selected symbol onto said target; and

focusing mirror means for directing and concentrating said reflected beam of energy onto said target. 13. An improved method for marking a target with a pulsed laser beam including the steps of:

(a) generating a beam of pulsed electromagnetic energy and

(b) forming the image of a symbol on a target, said step of forming the image of a symbol on a target including the steps of:

(b1) reflecting said pulsed beam of radiant energy to form said image shape on said target, said step of reflecting a beam of energy to form an image on said target includes the step of generating a plurality of symbols, and

(b2) selecting one of said plurality of reflective symbols to be generated by said reflective means coincident with said pulsed beam of radiant energy.

* * * * *

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65